

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber cleaving device comprising a base section, a pair of clamp sections provided on said base section and spaced at a predetermined distance from each other for supporting an unsheathed optical fiber extending therebetween, a blade section provided movably relative to said base section and including an edge capable of being disposed at a fiber cleaving position defined between said clamp sections, and a pusher section provided movably relative to said base section independently of said blade section and including a pushing face capable of being disposed at said fiber cleaving position, wherein:

said optical fiber cleaving device comprises an auxiliary support section pivotably disposed on one of the base and a cover section and provided separate from the clamp sections and movable relative to said base section independently of said blade section and said pusher section, and capable of being disposed at an operable position for supporting an unsheathed optical fiber in cooperation with said clamp sections; and

said auxiliary support section includes first and second auxiliary support sections provided on both sides of the blade section when in the operable position, said first and second auxiliary support sections includes a fiber support face locally located between said clamp sections separately from fiber clamping surface of the fiber clamping sections at said operable position, said fiber support face being so arranged as to come in contact with a local length of an unsheathed optical fiber extending between said clamp sections, the local length being located away from said fiber cleaving position.

2. (Previously Presented) An optical fiber cleaving device according to claim 1, wherein said auxiliary support section comprises a thin plate member including said fiber support face, a relief area formed adjacent to said fiber support face so as to be free of contact with a second local length of said unsheathed optical fiber located at said fiber cleaving position, and holdable areas

formed adjacent to both of said first and second fiber support faces so as to be clamped by clamping surfaces of said clamp sections together with said unsheathed optical fiber.

Claims 3 - 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for cleaving optical fibers, wherein the method comprises:

- providing a pair of clamp sections capable of respectively supporting an unsheathed optical fiber, and spacing said clamp sections at a predetermined distance from each other;

- providing an auxiliary support member pivotably disposed on one of a base and a cover section and separate from and movable relative to the clamp sections including a fiber support face capable of supporting an unsheathed optical fiber in cooperation with said clamp sections;

- supporting an unsheathed optical fiber on said clamp sections so as to extend between said clamp sections;

- securely arranging said auxiliary support member relative to said clamp sections in a manner that said fiber support face come in contact with a first local length of said unsheathed optical fiber extending between said clamp sections;

- locally scribing a surface of a target point in a second local length of said unsheathed optical fiber, adjacent to said first local length, between said clamp sections in a direction generally perpendicular to an axis of said unsheathed optical fiber; and

- applying a pushing force to said second local length of said unsheathed optical fiber in a radial direction between said clamp sections, so as to cleave said unsheathed optical fiber at said target point.